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ABSTRACT

Fall 1990 headcount enrollment statistics were gathered for three St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) (Florida) campuses (i.e., Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, and St. Petersburg) and compared with data for the previous 3 years. Focusing on degree credit enrollments, the study found that: (1) the total number of students increased collegewide from 16,599 in fall 1987 to 18,719 in fall 1990, with two of the three campuses decreasing in enrollment during this period, and one increasing (headcount enrollment figures for the Health Education Center are provided in a graph); (2) 67.8% of the fall 1990 SPJC students were enrolled in college transfer Associate of Arts (AA) degree programs; (3) 69.6% attended classes part-time; (4) the average student age was 24.1 years for AA students and 29 years for Associate of Science (AS) students; (5) 59.7% of the students were female, and 90.2% were White; (6) for the 4-year period, less than one-third of the students were enrolled in 12 or more credit hours; (7) students under age 19 decreased to the smallest percentage over the 4 years, while remaining more than one-fourth of the college's enrollment; (8) while the percentage of White students remained relatively constant over the 4-year period, the number of Black students increased by 0.2% and the number of Hispanics rose by 0.5%; (9) the percentage of students enrolled in the AA degree program rose from 61.8% to 67.8% over the 4-year period; and (10) the average SPJC student enrolled in fall 1990 differed little from students enrolled in 1987, with the majority being White, female, of traditional college age, and matriculated part-time in an AA program. (GFW)

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

St. Petersburg Junior College

TRENDS IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

JC 910016

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Volume 5, Number 2 November 1990

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABSTRACTS
St. Petersburg Junior College

TRENDS IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Executive Summary

This Abstract describes the student population (headcount) enrolled in degree credit programs at the college by the end of the first week of classes (FTE date) during Fall semester 1990 and describes enrollment trends for four years. In Fall 1990, the majority of students were enrolled in A.A. degree programs and attended college part-time. There were more females than males and more students in the 24 years or less age group than in all other age groups combined.

Selected student demographics, then, were compared over a four year time period. The four-year comparison showed that headcount enrollment was increasing at the Tarpon Springs and Health Education Centers. Collegewide, females have exceeded males during the four years; the majority of students continue to be 24 years of age or younger; attend college part-time; are predominantly white, with minorities composing slightly less than one-tenth of the population; and are enrolled in the college transfer A.A. degree program.

Volume 5, Number 2 *November, 1990*

TRENDS IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

St. Petersburg Junior College

The purpose of this Abstract is:

1. To describe the student population (headcount) enrolled in degree credit programs at the college by the end of the first week of classes (FTE date) during the Fall semester 1990.

2. To compare selected characteristics over a four-year period.

Table 1 describes the Fall 1990 credit student profile by campus. Over two-thirds (67.8%) of SPJC students are enrolled in the college transfer A.A. degree program and attend classes on a part-time basis (69.6%). Almost three-fourths of our students are between 15 and 29 years of age, with an average age of 26.0 years collegewide for all students taking credit courses. The average age of students varies by program of study, with students studying for the A.A. degree program likely to be the youngest with an average age of 24.1 years; those studying for the A.S. degree and vocational certificates averaging 29.0 years; and those enrolled in credit courses but not for a degree likely to be the oldest, with an average age of 31.1 years.

Collegewide there are more females (59.7%) than males (40.3%) and more part-time students (69.1%) than full-time (30.9%). This same pattern is followed on each of the campuses. On a collegewide basis 90.2% of our students are white, 4.7% are black, 2.2% are Hispanic, and 1.7% are Asian. This pattern varies on the campuses, where the percentage of white students is greatest at the Tarpon Springs Center (96.5%) and lowest at the St. Petersburg Campus (86.5%); the percentage of blacks is greatest at the St. Petersburg Campus (7.6%) and lowest at the Tarpon Springs Center (0.7%). The percentage of Hispanics is about equal at St. Petersburg (2.3%) and Clearwater (2.2%) but lower at Tarpon Springs (1.7%). The percentage of Asians is greatest at St. Petersburg (2.2%) and lowest at Tarpon Springs (0.6%).

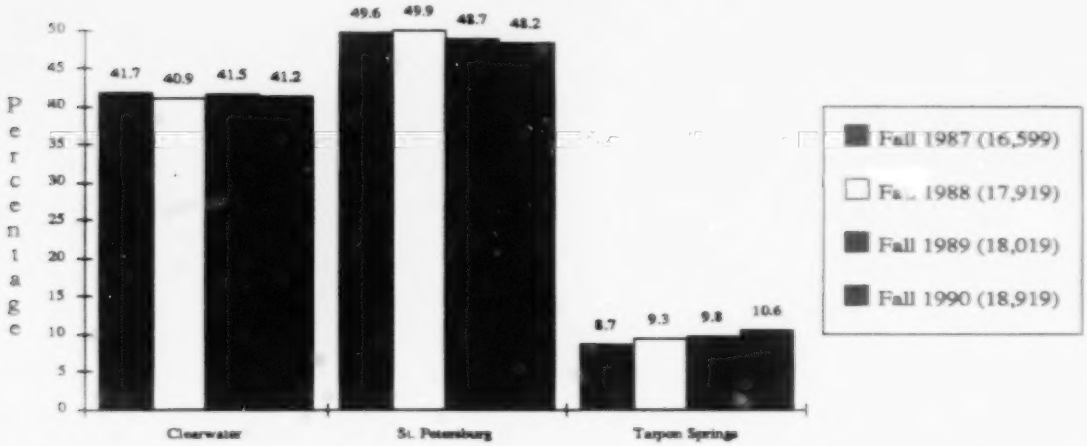
ST. PETERSBURG JUNIOR COLLEGE
PROFILE OF CREDIT/AUDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
FTE DATE SESSION I, 1990-91

	CLEARWATER		ST. PETERSBURG		TARPON SPRINGS		TOTAL*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
PROGRAM								
Advanced & Professional	4,978	65.5	6,316	69.9	1,405	71.1	12,700	67.8
Postsecondary Vocational	1,318	17.1	1,496	16.6	314	15.9	3,128	16.7
Other Personal Objectives	1,416	18.4	1,219	13.5	256	13.0	2,891	15.4
Total	7,712		9,031		1,975		18,719	
TYPE OF ATTENDANCE								
Full-time	2,451	31.8	2,719	30.1	611	30.9	5,782	30.9
Part-time	5,261	68.2	6,312	69.9	1,364	69.1	12,937	69.1
Day	5,496	71.3	6,173	68.4	1,358	68.8	13,028	69.6
Evening	2,216	28.7	2,858	31.6	617	31.2	5,691	30.4
GENDER								
Male	3,264	42.3	3,532	39.1	748	37.9	7,545	40.3
Female	4,448	57.7	5,499	60.9	1,227	62.1	11,174	59.7
RACE								
White	7,160	92.8	7,810	86.5	1,905	96.5	16,876	90.2
Black	191	2.5	683	7.6	14	0.7	888	4.7
American Indian	63	0.8	55	0.6	7	0.3	125	0.7
Asian	97	1.3	200	2.2	12	0.6	309	1.7
Hispanic	168	2.2	204	2.3	34	1.7	406	2.2
Non-Resident Aliens	33	0.4	79	0.9	3	0.1	115	0.6
AGE								
15-19	2,201	28.5	2,249	24.9	643	32.6	5,093	27.2
20-24	2,354	30.5	2,662	29.5	556	28.2	5,573	29.8
25-29	1,121	14.5	1,450	16.1	250	12.7	2,821	15.1
30-34	746	9.7	1,033	11.4	202	10.2	1,981	10.6
35-39	517	6.7	742	8.2	122	6.2	1,381	7.4
40-44	404	5.2	469	5.2	106	5.4	979	5.2
45-49	186	2.4	218	2.4	55	2.8	459	2.5
50-54	90	1.2	124	1.4	17	0.9	231	1.2
55-59	45	0.6	49	0.5	10	0.5	104	0.6
60 and over	44	0.6	32	0.4	11	0.6	87	0.5
Not known	4	0.1	3	0.1	3	0.2	10	0.1

*Includes 1 full-time white male student studying for the AA degree who has Open Campus designation for home campus.

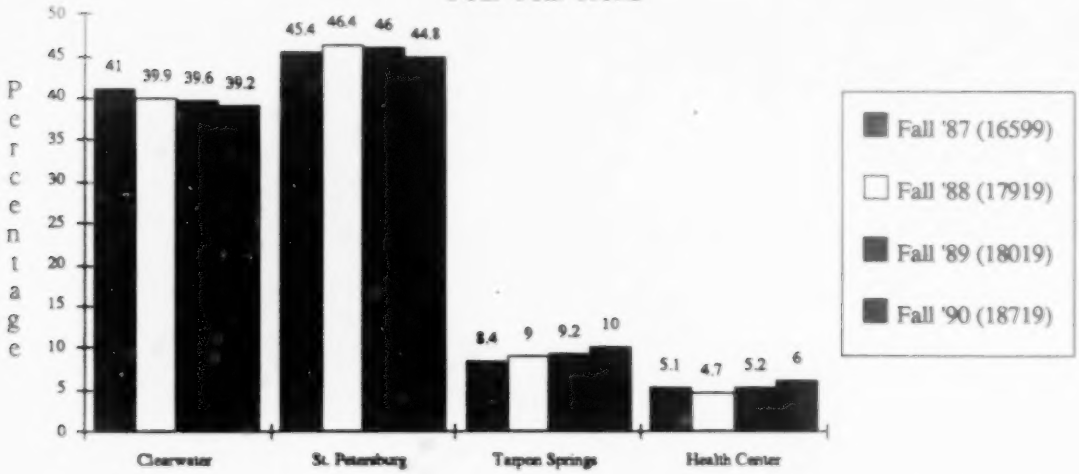
The graphs depicted on the following pages describe the student headcount population enrolled in credit courses at the college by FTE date during Fall semester for the last four years. Graph 1 shows the distribution of student headcount enrollment by home campus for Fall 1987 through Fall 1990. Recall that students are asked to identify one of three locations as a home campus when they apply for admission -- St. Petersburg Campus, Clearwater Campus or Tarpon Springs Center.

Graph 1
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT AT HOME CAMPUS
CREDIT STUDENTS
Four Year Trend



The total number of students has increased collegewide from 16,599 in Fall 1987 to 18,719 in in Fall 1990. The Tarpon Springs Center has shown a steady increase in enrollment over the four year period, while Clearwater and St. Petersburg though increasing in numbers, have a slightly decreasing percentage of the total enrollment. This was more noticeable when the students matriculated in health related programs, who have a home campus designation other than the Health Education Center, were shown separately from their home campuses as in Graph 2.

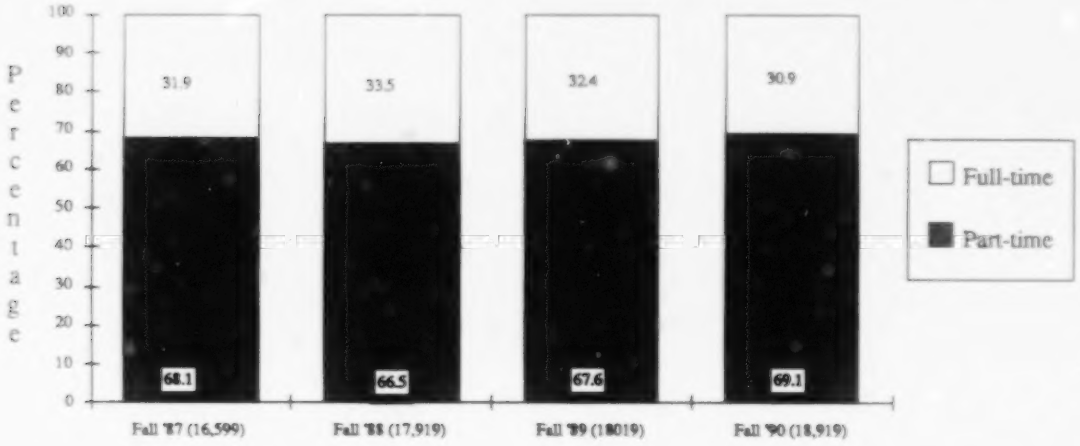
Graph 2
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY SITE
CREDIT STUDENTS
Four Year Trend



Although total headcount enrollment has been increasing, both Clearwater and St. Petersburg has shown a decrease in the percentage of the total for three years, while the Health Education Center has shown an increase for the same three years and Tarpon Springs for the four years.

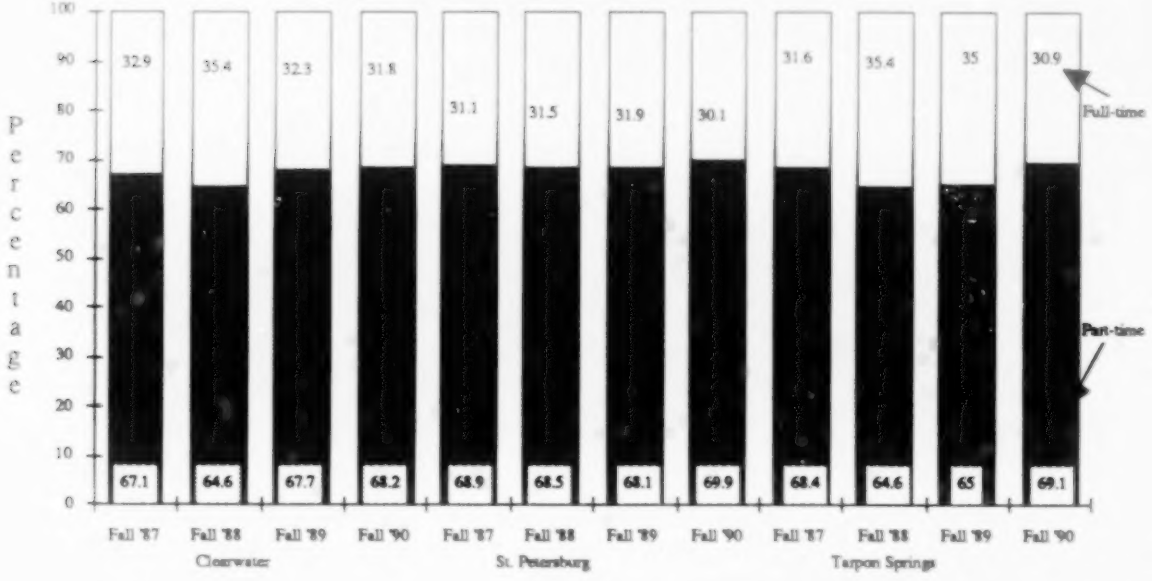
Graph 3 depicts the distribution of students based on matriculated credit hours with full-time enrollment equal to 12 or more hours. Graph 3A shows that collegewide, since 1987, a little less that one-third of SPJC students were enrolled in 12 or more hours.

Graph 3A
FULL/PART-TIME HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT
CREDIT STUDENTS
Four Year Trend



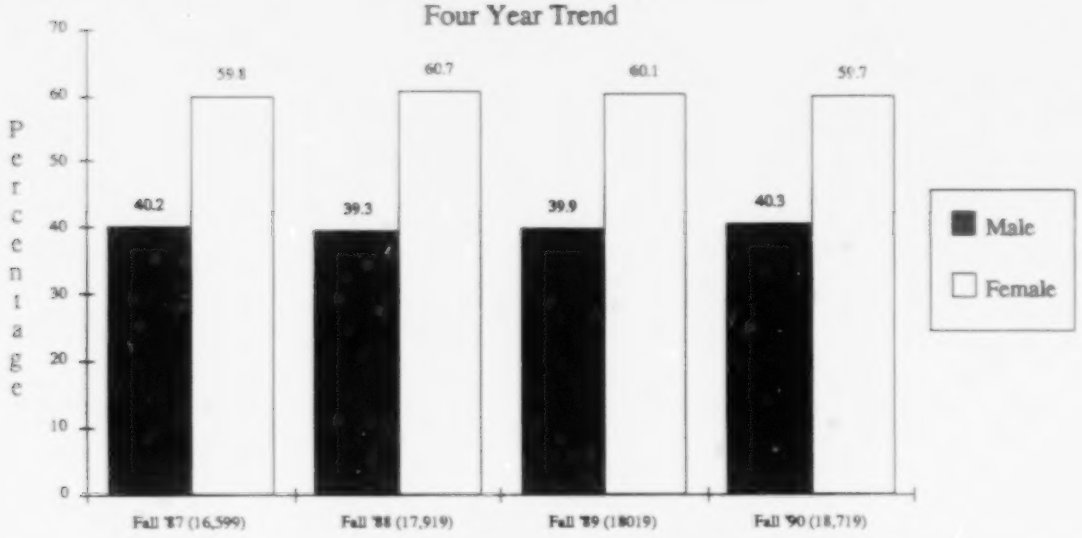
This pattern has been followed on all the home campuses, as shown in Graph 3B , although the St. Petersburg Campus has tended to enroll somewhat fewer full-time students than the other campuses.

Graph 3B
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY HOME CAMPUS
CREDIT STUDENTS FULL/PART-TIME
Four Year Trend



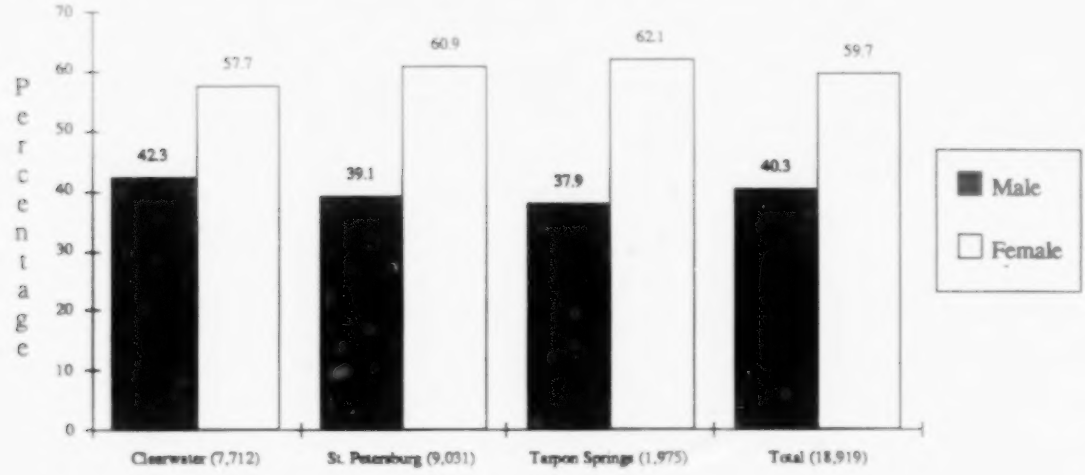
Graph 4A, which displays the collegewide headcount enrollment by gender for Fall 1987 through Fall 1990, shows that three-fifths of SPJC students were female.

Graph 4A
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY GENDER
CREDIT STUDENTS
Four Year Trend



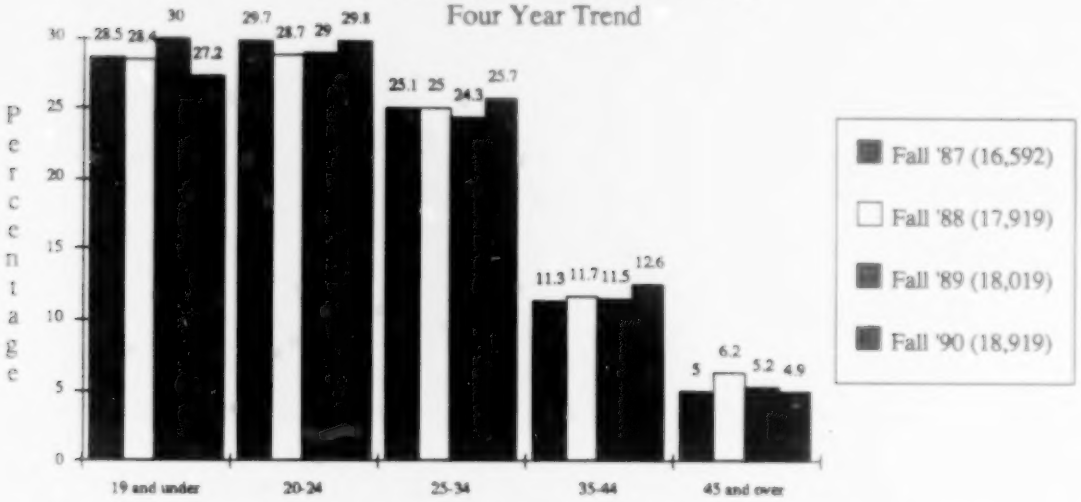
When the Fall 1990 enrollment by gender is compared by home campus, we find on Graph 4B that, although the number of females continues to be about three-fifths, there are variations by site around that percentage with Clearwater having the smallest at 57.7% and Tarpon Springs the largest at 62.1%.

Graph 4B
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY GENDER
CREDIT STUDENTS
Fall 1990



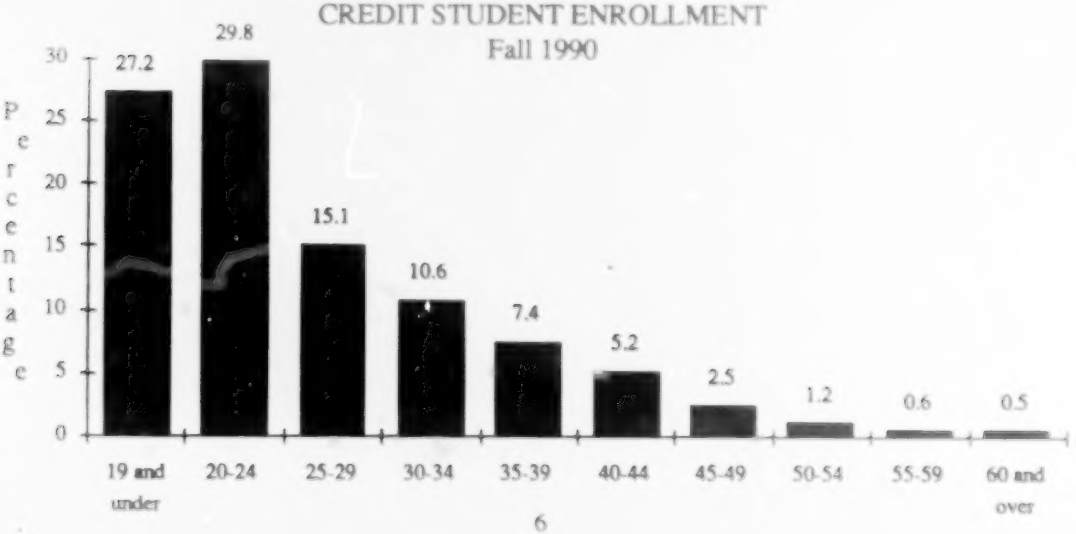
Graph 5A displays the percentage of students by age for Fall 1987 through Fall 1990. More than half of our student population was 24 years of age or younger and more than four-fifths were 34 years of age or younger. Interesting, the percentage of students in the 19 and under category decreased to the smallest percentage in the four years, though they remain more than one-fourth of the college's enrollment.

Graph 5A
FALL HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE
CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Four Year Trend



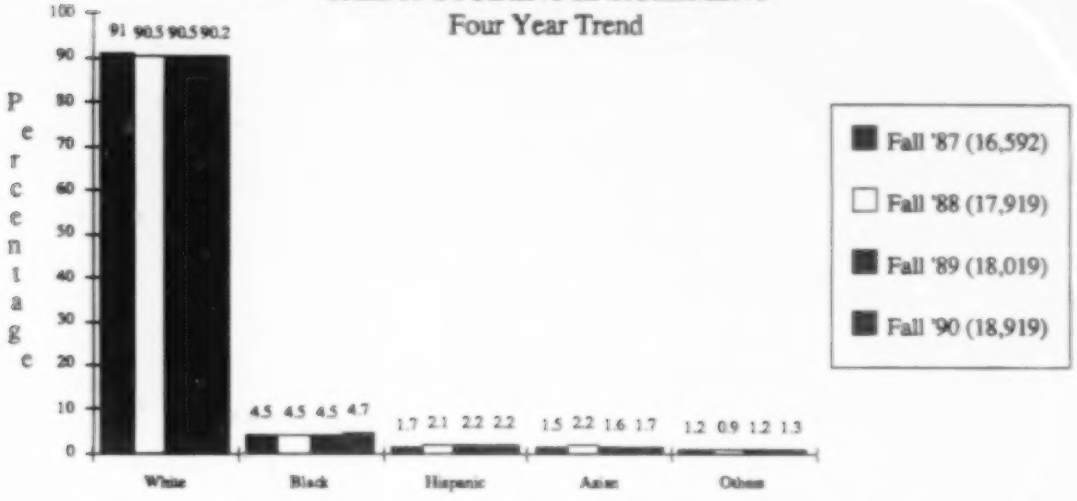
Graph 5B further classifies the age of students enrolled in Fall 1990 into more discrete age groups. The majority (57%) were in the traditional age brackets (24 years or less) for college students. The percentage of students in the remaining age brackets declined as the age increased. Only 17.4% of the population was 35 years or more, however, this was a slight increase over Fall 1989 when 16.7% of the enrollment was 35 years or older.

Graph 5B
HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE
CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Fall 1990



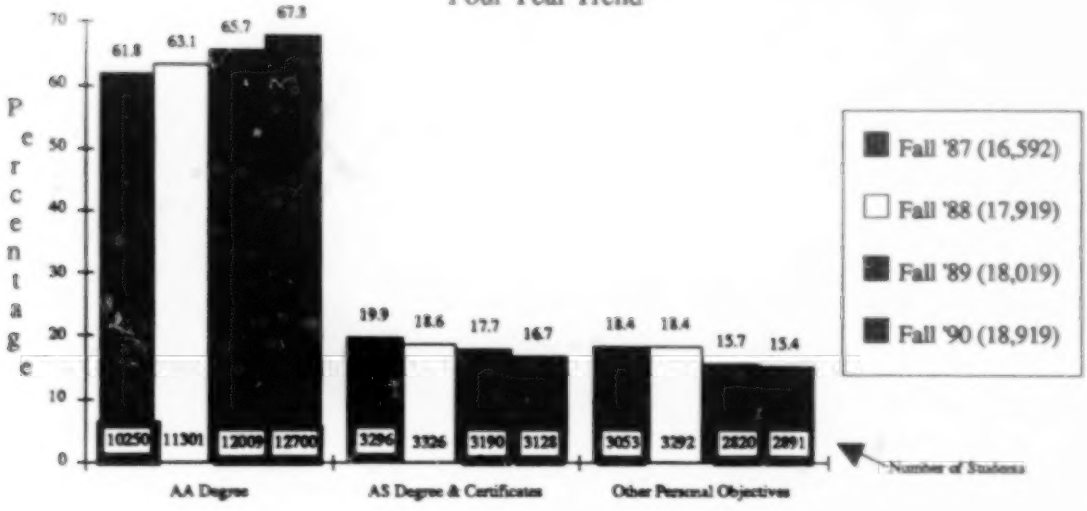
Graph 6 displays the Fall headcount enrollment by ethnic distribution. The percentage of black (less than 5%) and white (about 91%) students has remained relatively stable for the four years, although the percentage of blacks increased slightly for the first time in Fall 1990. The percentage of Hispanic students, although a relatively small percentage of the overall population, experienced a slight increase for three years and has maintained its percentage in Fall 1990.

Graph 6
HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY ETHNICITY
CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Four Year Trend



The percentage of students enrolled in the major program categories is displayed in Graph 7. The majority of students are matriculated in the college transfer program, a category that has steadily increased each year to include more than two-thirds of the credit enrollment (67.8%) in Fall 1990.

Graph 7
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM
CREDIT STUDENTS
Four Year Trend



Since Fall 1988, the number of students enrolled in A.S. degree and certificate programs has decreased slightly overall, and significantly as a percentage of the total. This phenomenon has greatly impacted college funds because the formula upon which community colleges are funded traditionally provides a larger appropriation for high cost vocational programs.

The average SPJC student enrolled in Fall 1990 is little different than the one who enrolled four years ago. She is likely to be white, of traditional college age, and matriculated part-time in an A.A. degree program.

QUESTIONS

1. Given the college enrollment growth, what factors are behind the continued growth in the A.A. degree program while the A.S. degree program enrollments have stabilized?

2. There have been three years of healthy enrollment increases at a time when the Pinellas County high school graduation rate has remained flat. What models of enrollment planning should the college be reviewing in light of changing demographics?

3. The majority of students enrolled at SPJC are of traditional college age. The percentage of students 19 years of age and under decreased to its lowest proportion in four years while there have been a slight increase in the number of 25-44 year old degree students. Is the college meeting the needs of the older returning students who may/may not have advanced degrees but are seeking more education to facilitate an occupational change and may/may not be seeking an A.A./A.S. degree?

Please direct questions or comments about this Educational Abstract or suggestions for future issues to Dr. Susanne Fischer, Director of Institutional Research, Institutional & Program Planning.

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